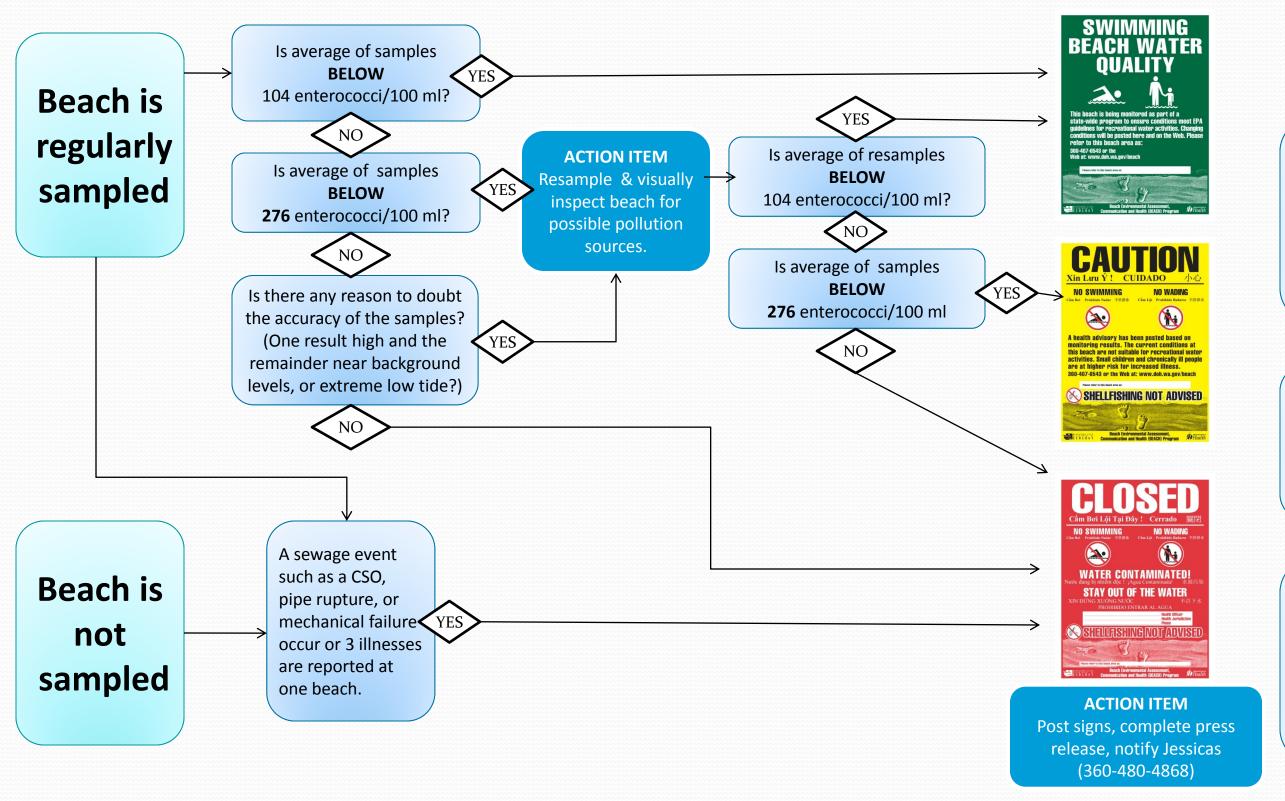
Washington BEACH Program Recommended Decision Process for Notification

According to WAC 246-260-180 Bathing beaches. **No bathing beach shall be maintained or operated when such water is determined by the health officer to be so polluted or subject to pollution as to constitute a menace to health if used for bathing.** Management decisions for public health and safety at recreational beaches should be based on specific water contact activities, usage, shoreline or sanitary surveys including site history and identification of possible impacts from pollution sources. Water quality monitoring for fecal contamination can be an additional tool used to investigate possible fecal contamination. It is important to communicate risk to the public reflective of actual beach conditions.



ACTION ITEMRemove Signs

POSTED FOR MONITORING RESULTS:

Post a permanent advisory when monitoring results indicate a chronic problem or seasonal geomean is over 35 mpn/100mL. Remove signs once the pollution source is addressed and results indicate background bacteria levels.

POSTED FOR SEWAGE EVENT:

Remove signs after the problem is fixed and sufficient time passes to allow for dilution or flushing. Consider a permanent advisory if a beach has a chronic pollution source.

POSTED FOR ILLNESSES:

Examine beach facilities and swimming area for possible reasons for illness. Refer to the sanitary / shoreline survey. Remove signs when source is identified and addressed. It is important not to open the beach until all sanitary concerns are addressed.